

Can our house have other occupants?

Can Christians have demons? This is a question we may be asked at times, especially due to the wrong use of terminology in the past. The Greek word 'daimonzomai' (Matthew 4:24) means having an unclean or evil spirit. It does not mean demon possessed.

A Christian **cannot** be demon-possessed as he/she now belongs to God. The word 'possessed', implies ownership (1 Corinthians 6:19,20). As a Christian we are a "house" for the Holy Spirit. Before salvation a person was owned by Satan and the Kingdom of Darkness; when being saved he/she is transferred into the Kingdom of Light. Jesus redeemed the "house", paid for it with His own blood and it is now under new management. But the former owner left some mess, and the house now needs refurbishment and redecoration = cleansing, healing and deliverance.

LORDSHIP OF JESUS

After salvation bringing the Lordship of Jesus into every area of our lives includes sanctification, discipleship and submitting to the rulership of God. Sometimes there are areas where darkness and demonic presence have a legal right to be in the case of, for example: unconfessed sins, unforgiveness, and different traumas in the past etc. (see chapter on 'Doorways')

A Biblical picture of this is the people of Israel entering the Promised Land. In Joshua's farewell to the people he says: "I have given you a land for which you did not labor... now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your Fathers served on the other side and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!" Joshua 24:13, 14.

Continuing into the Book of Judges, we can read of the incomplete Conquest of the land. And the Lord says in Judges 2:1, 2, - "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land which I swore to your fathers; and I said "I will never break My covenant with you...and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; but tear down their altars."

We often find that unholy agreements with the powers of darkness, become strongholds where the power of the cross needs to be activated. An active "putting away" the gods of our forefathers, applying the power of the cross to our past and our generational line, is what we will do in the following chapters.

Some Scriptures which indicate that Christians can have demons are:

- 2 Corinthians 11: 3-4 ...receive a different spirit...
- 1 Corinthians 10:14–22 ...Paul’s warning not “to have fellowship with demons”
- Acts 5:3 ...Ananias why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...
- Matthew 18:34, 35 ...In the case of keeping unforgiveness in ones life, God the Father permits Christians to be attacked by tormentors, clearly of demonic nature.
- Hebrews 12:1 ...Let us lay aside every weight, and sin which so easily ensnares us.
- Ephesians 4:27 ...do not give place/or opportunity to the devil....
- Mark 8: 32, 33 ...He rebuked Peter saying, “Get behind me Satan...”

COMMISSIONING THE DISCIPLES

Whenever Jesus sent out his disciples, he commissioned them to cast out demons. Then Jesus teaches them that the unclean spirit will return to the house that is now swept and put in order, and will bring seven other spirits more wicked than himself and the last state of that man is worse. (Luke 11:21-26)

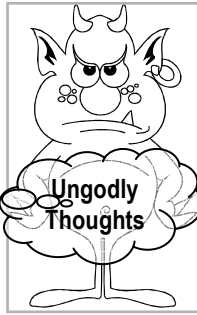
This means that if we bind the strongman and empty his house and do not fill it with the Holy Spirit, we are not doing that person any favor. It will be worse for him.

By that we understand that deliverance ministry is also for the believer to receive. As it is implied also in 1 Corinthians 12 and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are to benefit the church. The gift of discerning of spirits is used in deliverance ministry in the Church.

The Flesh







Regarding the old nature or the carnal man (Romans 6:4-6), we cannot blame demons for our own lack of self-control and failure to crucify the old nature (Romans 6:11-14). It is necessary to crucify the flesh and walk in the Power of the Holy Spirit daily to defeat the power of sin in our lives.

The Demons



Apart from the flesh, the unsanctified thoughts, attitudes and belief systems welcome demonic influence or affliction in our lives. Paul teaches the Christians in Corinth to take ungodly thoughts captive, to be put under the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5) otherwise they will become strongholds of demonic lies in our mind, that want to control our lives.

*At last some questions to ponder:
Why do we need.....*

-  ...an armor (Ephesians 6:10ff.) if there is no risk for the believer to be attacked?
-  ...to renew our mind (Romans 12:2)
if defilement of the mind is an impossibility?
-  ...to cleanse our flesh and spirit from filthiness
(2 Corinthians 7:1) if there is no risk of anything from the kingdom of darkness contaminating us? (Read also 1 Thessalonians 5:23)
-  ...to resist the devil, if there is no chance for him to fight against and overcome us? (James 4:7)
-  ...to be alert against our adversary the devil, who is like a roaring lion seeking to devour.....if there would be no way for him to devour us? (1 Peter 5:8)
-  ...to pray “deliver us from the evil one” if we as Christians do not need to be delivered? (Luke 11:4)



To deny deliverance ministry for the Christian who is struggling in areas they cannot control through Christian disciplines, is to deliberately deny them freedom from bondage. Freedom is God's gift to His children.